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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Martin et al.		
Assignee:	Maxtor Corporation		
Title:	DEVICE AND METHOD FOR IMPROVED STICTION RELIABILITY IN DISK DRIVES EMPLOYING PADDED SLIDERS		
Serial No.:	09/768,976	Filed:	January 23, 2001
Examiner:	Blouin, M.	Group Art Unit:	2653
Atty. Docket No.:	Q01-1001-US1		

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action dated September 24, 2002, please amend the application as follows.

In the Specification

Replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 1-10 with the following paragraph::

A1

Unfortunately, padded sliders 12P can be prone to rotate and/or tip off their pads 20P when the slider 12P comes to rest on the storage disk 14P. The predominant driving force for tipping is friction that acts during backward disk 14P rotation, which can occur if the motor cogs, or under the influence of external rotational shock. This friction acts at the slider 12P / disk 14P interface and provides a moment that acts to tip the slider 12P off its pads 20P. Referring to Figure 1B, the tipping brings the non-padded portion of the air bearing surface 18P near the back of the slider 12P in contact with the disk 14P. Unfortunately, the contact area between slider 12P and the disk 14P and stiction increase dramatically with the slider 12P in the tipped condition.